

6. (1814)

SUPREMACY ALLIED COMMANDER EUROPE
PARIS, FRANCE

November 2, 1961

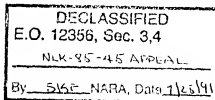
Dear Mr. President:

I had hoped that we would have available by this time the facts on which to base a more-or-less complete reply to your letter of October 20th, responding particularly to your request for information on certain specific subjects. I find, however, that the need to work with the planners from headquarters very widely dispersed throughout Europe, and the diversion of time and effort compelled by the Berlin situation during the last ten days, make it impossible to finish these studies for some time yet. This letter is therefore one of acknowledgment, although I would like to include a few general comments.

I am grateful that the measures recommended for immediate action during my visit to Washington have been authorized and are being implemented. These steps, when completed, will add significantly to our strength, but perhaps of even greater importance is the fact that they will further symbolize the determination of the American people to face the facts of the present Soviet threat.

You will recall that in the conference over which you presided on the 3rd of October, I did not request that additional divisions be deployed to Europe to augment my ground forces. My statement, as I recall it, suggested several reasons why I was not urging a further build-up of American troops at this time, although, from the purely military standpoint, such an augmentation was fully warranted. After studying the inclosure to your letter, I sense a suggestion that the United States may desire to send additional forces to Europe, perhaps two or more divisions. If this impression is correct and if, after this further consideration, the United States wishes to strengthen our forces in this manner, we are prepared to receive such an augmentation and will support it as a sound military step.

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I plan to be in Washington on the 6th and 7th of November and will, of course, be available at your convenience to report on the status of the studies referred to in your letter and on other matters of current interest in the European theater.

Yours faithfully,


LAURIS NORSTAD
General USAF

The President
The White House
Washington, D. C.